

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 60th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON TAXATION

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN JIM ELLIOTT**, on March 15, 2007 at 9:00 A.M., in Room 405 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Jim Elliott, Chairman (D)
Sen. Jerry W. Black (R)
Sen. Jeff Essmann (R)
Sen. Kelly Gebhardt (R)
Sen. Kim Gillan (D)
Sen. Dan Harrington (D)
Sen. Christine Kaufmann (D)
Sen. Sam Kitzenberg (D)
Sen. Jim Peterson (R)
Sen. Bob Story Jr. (R)

Members Excused: Sen. Trudi Schmidt (D)

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Lee Heiman, Legislative Branch
Lois O'Connor, Committee Secretary

Audio Committees: These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing & Date Posted: HB 490, 3/7/2007; HB 337, 3/7/2007;
SB 550, 3/7/2007; SB 549, 3/7/2007
Executive Action: None.

00:00:01

HEARING ON HB 490

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:00:11 **REP. JULIE FRENCH (D), HD 36**, opened the hearing on **HB 490**, Adoption tax credit.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:02:49 Joseph Shevlin, Chairman, Catholic Social Services of Montana

00:05:01 Moe Wosepka, Executive Director, Montana Catholic Conference

00:06:17 Rosemary Miller, Executive Director, Catholic Social Services of Montana

00:07:20 Jani McCall, Montana Providers Association

00:08:50 Sen. Dave Lewis, SD 52

Opponents' Testimony: None.

Informational Testimony:

00:09:54 Brian Olsen, Montana Department of Revenue (DOR)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: None.

Closing by Sponsor:

00:10:31 Rep. French

HEARING ON HB 337

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:11:11 **REP. JILL COHENOUR (D), HD 78**, opened the hearing on **HB 337**, Voted levy for firefighter disability insurance.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:13:07 Sue Mergenthaler, Eastgate Volunteer Fire Department

00:14:55 John Semple, Montana Fire Alliance

00:15:39 Gordon Morris, Lewis and Clark County

00:16:07 Sheryl Woods, Associate Director, Montana Association
of Counties (MACo)

Opponents' Testimony: None.

Informational Testimony: None.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:16:36 Sen. Robert Story to Rep. Cohenour

00:18:07 Sen. Story to Mr. Morris, Lewis and Clark County

00:19:42 Rep. Cohenour

00:20:38 Sen. Story to Rep. Cohenour rereferred to Mr. Morris,
Lewis and Clark County

00:23:44 Sen. Jim Elliott to Mr. Semple, Montana Fire Alliance

00:25:40 Sen. Story to Ms. Wood, MACo

Closing by Sponsor:

00:26:19 Rep. Cohenour

HEARING ON SB 550

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:27:44 **SEN. RICK LAIBLE (R), SD 44**, opened the hearing on **SB 550**, Revise local government study commission laws and tax provisions.

EXHIBIT (tas55a01)

Proponents' Testimony:

00:37:37 Gordon Morris

00:44:21 Tim Ravndal, Broadwater County

00:50:47 Alec Hansen, Montana League of Cities and Towns (MLCT)

00:54:59 Fred Thomas, Ravalli County

01:05:32 Sheryl Wood, Associate Director, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)

Opponents' Testimony: None.

Informational Testimony: None.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:06:51 Sen. Jerry Black to Sen. Laible rereferred to Lee Heiman, Staff Attorney, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

01:10:55 Sen. Story to Sen. Laible

01:14:07 Mr. Heiman, LSD

01:16:07 Sen. Story to Mr. Morris, Lewis and Clark County

01:17:50 Sen. Black to Mr. Morris, Lewis and Clark County

01:20:36 Sen. Black to Mr. Ravndal, Broadwater County

01:21:57 Sen. Elliott to Mr. Thomas, Ravalli County

01:22:50 Sen. Story to Mr. Thomas, Ravalli County

Closing by Sponsor:

01:25:50 Sen. Laible

HEARING ON SB 549

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

01:27:36 **SEN. BOB STORY (R), SD 30**, opened the hearing on **SB 549**, Revise property tax classification criteria of certain agricultural land.

Proponents Testimony:

01:30:06 Randy Wilke, Montana Department of Revenue (DOR)

01:42:44 John Youngberg, Montana Farm Bureau

01:43:50 Mike Murphy, Montana Water Resources Association

01:44:19 Sheryl Wood, Associate Director, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)

01:44:55 Jamie Kassmier, Montana Farmers Union

Opponents' Testimony:

01:45:12 Jim Ravndal, Broadwater County

Informational Testimony: None.

01:46:45 Dallas Reese, Property Assessment Division, Montana Department of Revenue (DOR)

01:47:03 Pat Torgerson

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:47:58 Sen. Elliott to Mr. Reese, DOR

01:49:04 Sen. Kim Gillan to Sen. Story rereferred to Mr. Wilke, DOR

01:50:36 Sen. Christine Kaufmann to Sen. Story

01:52:09 Sen. Jeff Essmann to Sen. Story

01:53:33 Sen. Elliott to Mr. Reese, DOR

Closing by Sponsor:

01:56:24 Sen. Story

Discussion:

01:57:36 Sen. Story

01:59:03 Sen. Elliott

01:59:44 Ms. Wood, MACo

02:01:26 Sen. Elliott to Mr. Wood, MACo

02:01:43 Sen. Elliott to Mr. Heiman, LSD

02:02:37 Sen. Elliott to Dan Bucks, Director, Montana Department of Revenue (DOR)

02:04:48 Sen. Dan Harrington to Director Bucks, DOR

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 11:15 A.M.

SEN. JIM ELLIOTT, Chairman

LOIS O'CONNOR, Secretary

JE/lo

Additional Exhibits:

EXHIBIT ([tas55aad.pdf](#))